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**ABSTRACT**

An electric actuator includes a first plate and a substantially parallel second plate. A linkage system couples the first plate to the second plate such that moving the linkage system toward an over-center position causes the second plate to move away from the first plate. An electric motor is coupled to the linkage system to move the linkage system toward the over-center position. A force transducer is coupled to the actuator to produce a force signal responsive to a force produced by the actuator. A control system is coupled to the electric motor and the force transducer to provide a control signal to the electric motor to move the linkage system to a position that was determined by the control system in response to the force signal in a previous movement of the linkage system.